

East Asia Unit Preview**Background**

China started along the Yellow river in northeastern China where farmers grew millet and wheat. Farming later moved south to the Yangtze (YONG-zuh) river, where rice production led to an increase in China's population. The land between the rivers became the center of Chinese civilization, the "Middle Kingdom." Early Chinese culture grew in relative isolation due to physical barriers and long distances that separated it from other major civilizations of Eurasia. China and its neighboring countries of Mongolia, Korea, and Japan form a region bordering the Pacific Ocean known as East Asia. China will develop a unique culture and many technologies within its isolation. Eventually Chinese ideas will culturally diffuse through East Asia to Korea, then Japan and then to the rest of Eurasia through the Silk Road. This cultural diffusion greatly influenced the rest of the world. After awhile, China, Korea, and Japan closed their ports to western powers, which significantly influenced their development after that point as well as their global influence.

Unit Questions

Big questions that you will be able to answer by the end of the unit:

1. How did geography affect the GREATS of China, Korea, and Japan?
2. How did East Asian infrastructures (governments) meet the needs of their people? How is this accomplished?
3. Why did China and Japan ultimately choose isolation? For what purpose do governments do this and what are some possible negative impacts?

Important questions that you will be answering throughout the unit:

1. How did each of the Chinese dynasties seek to provide and maintain stability, unity, and organization?
2. How did the dynastic cycle justify the rise and fall of Chinese Dynasties?
3. How did the lack of stability, unity, and organization generally lead to the growth of religion and philosophy? What philosophies or religions developed as a result of this instability?
4. How did Confucianism and the role of family lead to hierarchy and structure in East Asia?
5. How did feudalism develop? What was the relationship between feudalism and a militaristic government?
6. How was Korea a bridge between China and Japan?
7. To what extent was Japanese culture innovative (creative) as opposed to being a copy of Chinese culture?
8. Why were China and Japan able to close off their ports to foreign trade for several centuries?

Terms and people that you should be able to identify by the end of the unit. Who or what it is, when and where it took place, and why it is significant to the unit are all important to know.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Dynasties | <input type="checkbox"/> Shinto | <input type="checkbox"/> Huang He & Yangtze Rivers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silk Road | <input type="checkbox"/> Kana | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Wall of China |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shi Huangdi | <input type="checkbox"/> Feudalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Hangul |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confucianism | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Diffusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Sejong |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daoism (Taoism) | <input type="checkbox"/> Foot binding | <input type="checkbox"/> Shogun/Shogunate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Mongol invasion | <input type="checkbox"/> Kami |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandate of Heaven | <input type="checkbox"/> Zhongguo (Middle Kingdom) | <input type="checkbox"/> Zen Buddhism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dynastic cycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil service exams | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filial piety | | |

Dynasty	
Silk Road	
Confucianism	
Daoism	
Legalism	
Warring States	
Feudalism	
Civil Service Exam	
Mandate of Heaven	
Filial Piety	
Mongols	
Middle Kingdom	